

Rev. Saml. Marsden to the Secy

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Rec'd Feb. 5/21

Comd. Feb. 12/21

Bay of Islands April 27th 1820

Ms. Mar. 13/21

On board H.M.S. Porpoise

Dear Sir

You will have learned from Mr. Rendall that I arrived in St. John's in N.S. Porpoise on the 27th of Feb. just at the period Mr. Rendall was embarking for England. I was much surprised at the step he had taken without any previous consultation, either of his colleagues, the Society, or any other person - I cannot see the wisdom of his measure - According to human foresight it was an bad step - Divine providence may overrule all for good: and time will reveal the good or evil attending Mr. M.'s visit to England. However clear Mr. M. might see his way; to me it appeared dark and gloomy - His colleagues had only lately arrived they were neither acquainted with the language, nor the characters, nor the manners of the natives, and on their account his presence was very much wanted - A new settlement was forming under the protection of Shushet - Shushet accompanying Mr. M. distressed the minds of his colleagues, as they considered him, as their principal guardian, and were full of fear for their personal safety when Shushet was gone. Mr. M. left his wife and 8 children wholly at the mercy of the natives, and at an age when they, in a very especial manner require the eye of the parent, to prevent them from wandering amongst the heathens and learning their ways - However he was determined upon returning to England

Let the consequences be what they may - Some
individual must think of, and provide food for
his family - I believe myself, and Mr. Butler must
take this trouble: or they will not be provided for.
Tho' I cannot approve of Mr. G. leaving St. John's
at the present time, his business may perhaps be
satisfactory to the Committee - If so it will be
well - I wish now to state the situation of
the mission in, or my arrival - Permit me
first to observe with respect to St. John's, there never
was in my opinion a fairer field for missionary
labors in any Northern nation. with respect to the
Personal danger of the missionaries, I think six
years experience is sufficient to remove any
serious apprehensions upon that ground - Mr.
G. leaving his wife and eight children in the
power of the natives is at least a strong testimony
what his opinion is upon this ground - No doubt
but he thinks them safe from violence - There is every
prospect, as far as concerns the natives to encourage
the Society in their labors - The great difficulty
in establishing this mission ^{has originated} from civilized Enemies,
and from the missionaries having connections with
the shipping - which has more or less tended to
destroy that unity of spirit which is the bond of
peace, and by their conduct to give just cause to
the Enemy to triumph - To do justice to Miss
Hendall and Galt they have both been very

worth men in their respective stations, but I
 apprehend they would have been much more
 so had they not lost sight of their duty to the Society
 and to each other - Their Commerce with the natives
 and shipping for Muskets and Powder excited their
 Avarice; and Avarice excited Jealousy, and both
 together destroyed all Christian love, and carried
 them so far out of their duty that they could not
 ever meet at least to read the service of the
 Church on the Sabbath Day together - when
 I visited them in August last I found them all
 in a state of Contusion - I saw these evils to be
 exceeding great - but the difficulty was to find
 a remedy - I had for long time been conversing
 with them by letter against the nefarious Traffic
 of Muskets and Powder with the natives, and against
 all private Traffic but notwithstanding the Directions
 I had given and the Resolutions which they entered
 into against this matter, I found it was still continuing
 and productive of every evil - I had a string of
 Resolutions, or Rules drawn up, which were read
 one by one in the Committee, and approved
 by the signature of them all - when these
 Resolutions were past I hoped a death blow
 was struck to this abominable, and disgraceful
 Evil - not many days after one of the old
 Settlers, (Mr. King) purchased a quantity of
 Hops with a Musket - I now despaired of
 ever preventing this evil, without all

the missionaries who were concerned in this wicked-
ness were dismissed from the service of the
mission - This I had no Authority to do and if I
had possessed the Authority as an individual
I should not have exercised it, but I should have
referred the matter to the Consideration of
the Honorable Committee at Home. I did
suspend Mr King, as stated in a former letter -
The Rev. J. Butler saw this evil in the same
light I did, and also Mr J. P. Galt & Kemp -
After this subject came again before the
Committee, they all unanimously agreed to
once more to abide by the rules which they
had signed - During my stay in W. Zealand I
experienced much Distress from the misbehavior
of those employed in the mission - I hoped
mutual Friendship was restored amongst
them in a certain degree when I left them in 1840
at the same time I was afraid the Rev. J. Butler
would not be able to maintain his Authority and
to carry on the mission with comfort to himself -
I have had a deal of Experience with missionaries for more
than twenty years, and I have found them very diffi-
cult to do any thing with. As soon as they enter upon
their work they feel independent - They consider themselves
their own Masters - and will only do what they
please - In all missions some improper Characters
will be found - In the Antislavery mission there were
several worthless Characters - In time one
after another left their Stations, and returned to

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to the world again - some of them became drunk
and and guilty of other scandalous sins. But the
conduct of the gods and abandoned, did not prevent
the Divine blessing from crowning the labors of
the faithful missionaries with success. we
must not expect all to turn out well who come
to W. Iceland - we must be thankful if one in
thousand do their work faithfully - what also adds
to the difficulty of the mission here, is the distance
W. Iceland is from the mother country - It is
probable, had the missionaries been nearer home they
would have behaved better, or the Committee
would have removed them - situated as this country
is, there were none to supply their place and
had they were away the Christian world would
have been discouraged from supporting the mission
and the enemies would have greatly rejoiced -
On my arrival in February I found the Europeans
in great confusion - and the Jews were again
springing up amongst the wheat - The letters had
fallen into their old quarter with the traps and
natives for muskets and powder - Mr. Walker
either for want of authority, or from fear, or
persuasion had been prevailed upon to put
his hands with the same traffic, not on his private
Account, but to procure animal food for the
support of the Settlement - His mind was
not prepared to meet - I called a meeting again
stated my Abhorrence of this traffic -

Mr. Butler condemned it as much as I did - They
contended that without muskets and Powder the
natives would not sell their Bees - that they could
not get a bag of Linen, nor Tobacco on any
article they wanted to purchase - I did not credit all
they said - but told them I should be here for some
time, and then I should judge - that they should
not purchase any while I remained with them,
and if any one did I would not pay for it - and
be brought off by them for it - If I found
that they could not get animal food without
muskets and Powder - I would send them salt
meat from Fort Jackson till the subject was
submitted to the Committee at Home. Mr.
Butler was much distressed - told me he could not
govern the Europeans - and if I had not come
he should have returned to Fort Jackson - by
the first opportunity - I was thank'd for to God
that his Providence had opened a way for me
to visit them at this trying moment - Mr.
Butler wants experience - he has had men under
him, but not missionaries, who have no idea of
subordination - I think the Boarding will remain
long enough for me to prove that they can get
all the native Productions without muskets or
Powder - and I hope I shall establish Mr. Butler
upon a more comfortable Foundation than he
was before - I know Mr. Hall will plead for
this point very strongly, and had he remained

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Mr. Butler would have found more difficulty in
abolishing than he will at present notwithstanding
Mr. H. had signed the Resolutions to banter us more
with muskets and powder when I was here in
November - and I believed he would do what he prom-
-ised - yet to my great mortification he had some
muskets sent down from Fort Jackson in the
Evening by his Agent, which I knew nothing
of till after they were opened on board, and I was
informed by the Kings Officers that this was the
fact - Mr. Butler told me the same - I did not
know this circumstance till Mr. Kendall had sailed.
Had I known I should have ordered them back again -
I shall rejoice to give the missionaries Credit for all
the good they do, and to approve of their Conduct
as far as I can - and it gives me much pain
to state the above Complaints - I condemn this
Practic because its natural tendency is to defeat the
grand object of the Society - It arms one Tribe of
natives against another, who are unarmed - for a
man with a Chum, has not the same means of
Defense that one has with a musket - The morning
Mr. Kendall sailed - I believe not less than forty Canoes
came into the Harbor from a war Expedition with
prisoners of war, and the Heads of a number
of Chiefs whom they had slain in battle - I went
on shore, and saw the Prisoners and the
Heads when they landed - The sight was striking
beyond conception -

American Annoncers tends to inflame their warlike
spirit, and to urge them to blood and slaughter -
no man can upon Christian Principles defend
such a War - Satan could not have had a more
powerful Instrument to overthrow the mission
than this War - If the missionary letters will do
their duty, and follow the instructions of the Society
they will be blessed in their work - but if they do
the work of the sword deceitfully, he will not bless
them - They have suffered a little inconvenience, a
few provocations while residing amongst the
Heathens - but some of them meet in the common
course of things have suffered, had they lived in
England, and had their families to maintain there.
In my observations I have here made I do not wish
to damp the spirits of the Society - There is nothing
to discourage the Christian work. I have no doubt
but the time is at hand for you to visit these poor
Heathens - The New Zealanders are prepared for the
Gospel - no difficulties lie on their side - It is the
Instrument I blame - I hope the time is now
come when the great evil will be conquered

I shall do all I can to put matters upon a
permanent footing - Mr. M. Kendall be in
England he may endeavour to defend his conduct
in what I conceive him in - but he never can -
He will say as I do, the New Zealanders will kill
a man as well as a man - but that argument is
nothing - I am with much esteem
Rev. J. Smith
Mrs. & L. L. Sam. & Maria

Rev. J. Kendall
May of Kendall, Apr 24/20/26