

Rev. Sam^l Marsden to the Rev. Mr. Pennington

Bay of Islands April 26.

Rec'd Feb. 15/21

Comt. Feb. 12/21.

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1820

Dear Sir
March 13/21.

As a vessel sails this morning for Port Jackson I embrace the opportunity to write you a line. I am still in the Bay of Islands - A few days after you sailed I walked to the harbor on the western side and spent more than a week with the hospitable Chiefs on its banks who were overjoyed to see me - I have felt great pleasure in their company - The morning I returned, when I reached the long wood, it began to rain very heavy - I remained in the wood all night, tho' very wet - The next morning I set off for Riviere Riviere - The rain had fallen in torrents all night, and still continued - The swamps and creeks were all full, and the streams very rapid and deep - I had to wade thro' them all, as the natives could not attempt to carry me the waters were too strong - As I cannot swim, I was obliged to have two with me that could assist me in deep places - In the evening I reached the

Attenant wet and weary - most of the natives
did not get in till the next evening, only
two accompanied me, the rest remained in
the wood all day - I have since been round
by sea to the Gambier in the Drummond
but the Captain was afraid there was not
sufficient depth of water for so large a
Ship being only 19 feet upon the bar at low
water, and therefore returned - I have visited
everywhere, as well as all the Districts
round the Bay of Islands - and was very kindly
received - They all want missionaries - I expect
we shall visit the River Thames - Mr
Tubbery as you well know is ready for
any place the Christian world will
be ready to impart - and those who love the
Cause of Christ, and are willing to devote
themselves to it, will be welcomed here -
As far as concerns the natives there is no
obstruction in the way of their Civilization.
The Path is as clear as can be in any
Heathen Country, so that I need not say a

went to you upon that subject, as this you are
well convinced of - I shall now say a little on
the state of the nation - you know in what
great confusion I found the country when
I arrived - I had no time previous to your
sailing to make any inquiry, or I should
have made a representation by you to the
Committee - I found you had called into
that accursed traffic with muskets and powder
again, notwithstanding all the resolutions that
had been passed against ^{it} when I was with you
in August last. Mr. Butler had been guilty
also - I felt the keenest anguish when I learned
these things - I am convinced such conduct
will bring a curse upon St. Helena, and
not a blessing - I was informed you had
opened a cash or fund the Treasury
directed to you, and had been filled by me
(not knowing its contents) with fire muskets
in it - I could hardly believe the report, had
not a gentleman told me who would not
speak an untruth - The morning you
sailed, you will remember about 30 barrels

came into the Harbour from a war Expedition
I went on shore, when the Canoes were landed,
and there beheld the most distressing scene:
the miserable Captives of war, embracing
the Heads of their Deceased Fathers or Chiefs,
and cutting their own bodies off in their
manner, and mingling their blood with
their Tears - when I considered that the misfir-
-ing was furnishing the Instruments of
Death to these poor Savages, by supplying
them with muskets and Powder, I could not
but feel the greatest Indignation at such a
Thought - no Arguments what you or any
other can use, will ever convince me
but that this is a great Sin in the Sight of
God, and fatal to the Christian name.
I regretted that I had supplied Mr. Muller and
his Colleagues with a kind of Powder -
I did it for their Preservation in case of
any unforeseen tumult should happen in
N. Zealand - I shall leave the misfir-
-ing in
future

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2. future under the Divine Protection - They shall not depend upon an Arm of flesh - As soon as I could I called a Committee, stated again, what I had then stated before, my Sentiments upon this rebellious Party, and told the whole, that I would have no more to do with their Settlement, or any of them if they would not put away this accursed thing - I would give up the Cause altogether for the present as far as I was personally concerned, and have no more Connection with them - and this I am fully resolved to do - The Argument that has been generally urged, has been that neither Iron, nor Steel could be brought from the natives with ^{out} muskets and Powder - This I do not credit - and I hope I shall stay long enough to prove that this Opinion is not correct - The Rev. Mr. Butler and all the others have well more promised to have nothing to do with

this traffic in future - I have explained to
all the neighbouring Chiefs, that the Letters
must not be taken with them on account
with muskets and powder, and if they
will not supply them with what they want,
they must return to Fort Jackson - none
of them will hear of the Letters leaving
them - I think it much more to the
Honour of Religion, and the good of the Indians
to give up the mission at the present than
trade with the natives in these articles.
I hope you will bring none out with you
if you do, they will be of no use to you when
you return, unless you have a sanction from
the Committee to dispose of them which
I think will not be granted - I need add no
more on this subject, further than to
assure you that all connection between
me and you, as far as concerns the mission
must be at an end, if you entertain any
Idea of repeating what has been formerly done

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in this respect. This party has been the cause of
all the evils that have existed amongst you -
It destroyed all Christian love, it excited enmities
and jealousies, and animosities, and reflections, and
neglect of all your proper duties - and turned
you aside from the right way and you
open to the attacks of your enemies - covered
your warmest friends ^{with} shame, and caused them
to weep in secret - I am sure God will
not bless any of you in your own souls
while you are guilty of such things -
but will in his righteous displeasure bring
ignominy and a reproach upon you - no
Plea can justify such a course in the
sight of God - I pray that all concerned may
be convinced of the evil of this party -
with respect to Mr. Henry I have had little
communication with him since I arrived -
I have your done with him - and have left
Mr. Butler to settle all his concerns in future.
He will not hear a word I have to say to
him - You told me Mr. Henry had been

not well treated - a poor could not be blamed
in this Assertion - you cannot justify his
conduct - you have contemned it again
and again - I, as a Quaker, cannot shut my
Eyes to public or private evils which
affect the mission - I must notice them
I have no doubt but God will bless these
poor Heathers; and that nothing shall
prevent his gracious Design from being
accomplished - It is impossible but that
Heresies will come, but were to that man
by whom the offence cometh -
I must now conclude - your Family are
all well - and all your Colleaguees -
I wish you may return full of a real
missionary Spirit when you come
and remain

Yours Reverently

Saml Mather

Wm. P. Kendall

Bay of St. Lawrence, Sept. 26/20
Rev. J. Mather to
Rev. J. Kendall